



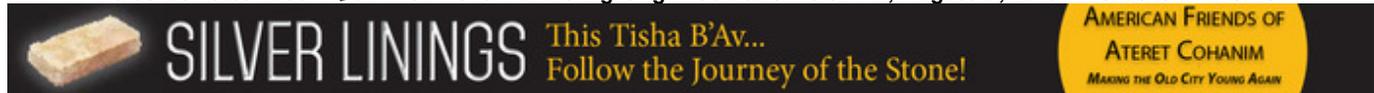
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## American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai ....Making the Old City young Again

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Parashat Matot-Masei / פרשת מטות-מסעי Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 6:52 PM, August 5, 2016 1 Menachem Av 5776



### Jerusalem Divrei Torah

*The centrality of Jerusalem to the Jewish People is indisputable and is the core of our mission. Our Divrei Torah by [Rabbi Yosef Bronstein](#) focus on Jerusalem and its connection to the weekly Torah portion. For a pdf to discuss at the Shabbat table, please [click here](#). To sponsor a Dvar Torah please [click here](#).*

#### The Consolation of Yerushalayim and the Faculty of Speech

Our parsha opens with the laws of vows. The opening Gemara in masechet Nedarim differentiates between a *shvu'ah* and a *neder*. [1] The former is when the vow is focused on the person – “I will not eat this apple” – while the *neder* focuses on the object – “this apple is forbidden to me.” What emerges from the Gemara’s treatment of the *neder* in particular, is that a person’s words have a creative capacity. One can instill real halakhic sanctity on an item and give it the same status as something related to the Beit ha-Mikdash. This creative component of human speech fits well with what we know of Hashem’s word. The Torah begins with the fact that Hashem created this world through specifically speech. [2]

This is the background for the profound sensitivity the Torah requires of us regarding our speech. What is true about creation of the world or imbuing an item with sanctity is also true about people, events and situations. We have the power to build or destroy people through our words. A kind word can breathe new life into a person while a hurtful word can deflate them. Our own perception and situation is also shaped by how we speak of it.

This is why so much about the process of exile and redemption is connected with the faculty of speech. Our first exile which is treated as a paradigm for all future exiles is referred to as “the exile of speech.” [3] The Egyptians took away our ability to speak and made us slaves and we therefore celebrate our freedom through a night of talking. In a sense, we build our redemption through talking about it.

The same is true for our current exile. It was due to the slander of Bar Kamtza that the Romans besieged Yerushalayim and destroyed the Beit ha-Mikdash. If we go back further in time, it was the *lashon ha-ra* of the spies that caused Hashem to declare the day of Tisha B'Av as a day of calamity for generations. But this idea also holds the power of redemption. In what is perhaps the “flagship” prophecy of consolation, Yeshaya is told “Comfort, comfort my people, **speak** to the heart of Yerushalayim and **call** out to it.” [4]

Just as the destruction of Yerushalayim and the Beit ha-Mikdash came through a misuse of speech, the ultimate consolation and redemption must come through the same faculty. It is words of comfort, peach, encouragement and kindness that will overturn the negative speech and rebuild Yerushalayim and the Beit ha-Mikdash. [5]

May we use this time period of mourning over Yerushalayim to remind ourselves of the power of positive words.

### From My Heart to Yours, as Jews who Really Care About Our Brothers and Sisters:

Shani Hikind  
 Executive Vice President

The Three Weeks are upon us leading up to the saddest day on the Jewish calendar, Tisha B'Av, when we will mourn collectively for the destruction not only of two majestic Holy Temples in Jerusalem but also for all of the tragedies that have befallen our people over thousands of years. The tears that have been shed by the Jewish people could fill the oceans the world over. Are WE going to cry? Can we possibly feel the pain that millions of Jews have felt over the centuries at the hands of our enemies who tried to destroy us? Can we, in 2016, in the comfort of our air conditioned homes and shuls, living in a country blessed with unlimited freedom and liberty, harness the emotion that enables us to feel for lives cut down in their prime due to unmitigated hatred, prejudice and ignorance?

Can we, in any way, possibly comprehend the tragic loss of such magnificent holy temples and the accompanying slaughter and dispersion of the Jewish people, not once, but twice? We know that “in every generation they rise up to destroy us,” and sadly, this is as true today as at any time in our history.

So what is the answer friends? Is there an antidote to all this pain and anguish? Are we destined to mourn forever and ever? Will we ever reach that yearned for time when there will be ahavat chinam versus sinat chinam and thereby merit the rebuilding of a magnificent bait hamikdash in our eternal capital? Can we possibly envision a time when the Jewish people will herald the coming of moshiach and Rabbi Akiva’s vision will be realized of sacrifices being made to Hashem in a third Holy Temple?

May I humbly suggest that part of the prophecy has been fulfilled for over 37 years by the devoted Ateret Cohanim families who live with tremendous mesirut nefesh in the heart of Jerusalem, in the so called Moslem and Christian quarters of the Old City, in Yemenite Village - what the world refers to as Silwan – and in Kidmat Zion and Maalei HaZeitim (our new community on the Mount of Olives). These fearless Jews could live anywhere in Israel, but they choose to live in the neighborhoods closest to the Kotel, closest to where someday, with G-d’s help, the Jewish people WILL merit to see the Bais HaMikdash rebuilt.

In the meantime, their lives are imbued with holiness living in renewed Jewish neighborhoods out of a staunch commitment

[1]Nedarim 2a.

[2]See Rav Zalman Baruch Melamed's introductory shiur to Masechet Nedarim at <http://www.yeshiva.org.il/midrash/24505>.

[3]See, for example, Sefat Emmet parshat Shemot, 5652, based on the Zohar parshat Va'eira.

[4]Yeshaya 40:1-2.

[5]For a similar idea, see the following shiur from Rav Yehoshua Shapira <http://www.yrg.org.il/show.asp?id=33913>.

**SILVER LININGS**  
a movie produced by  
**American Friends of Ateret Cohanim for Tisha B'Av**  
for more information, [click here](#)



[Listen to our interview on the Nachum Segal Network](#)

See All of Our Videos on You Tube



**From the Wittenberg Play Center**

*Our play center brings out the best in creativity*



Summertime is when all of the colors to make fabric dyes for the Beit HaMikdash can be collected. We spoke about how techelet and argamon are made from the chilazon, found off the coast of Israel and how the tola'at shani is found for a few weeks on the Common Oak trees. The boys made different crafts connected to techelet and tzitzit, as well as some of their own creative designs. [click here](#) to support our youth programs

**SHOW THE WORLD THAT WE ARE PROUD  
AND NOT AFRAID**

**Plan your tour of Jerusalem During the Summer Months**

to keeping Jerusalem united with Jewish life. They can only do this because of a remarkable commitment to Torah, Eretz Yisrael and Am Yisrael, all the components necessary to bringing about the end of mourning for the destroyed Bait HaMikdash and the joy we will see with the rebuilding of the Bait HaMikdash.

But our brothers and sisters need our help. They need us standing by their side in word and deed. We cannot just cry and mourn. We must act! We must give! We must show Hashem that we care about Yerushalayim and it cannot be desecrated by the absence of Jewish life! Therefore, now, during the 3 Weeks, give of yourself to help our amazing families who are living the dream of bringing Holiness to Yerushalayim by their presence in the Holy City. They are not just there for themselves. They are there for YOU! **Because Jerusalem is the heart and soul of the Jewish people. And it is not enough to cry and mourn. We have to CARE! And if one cares, one does something to show he cares. Otherwise, caring is simply meaningless.**

On a personal note, I just returned from a wonderful trip to Israel to surprise my brother for his 60th birthday. Family is important to all of us, and I joined the family in Efrat. But besides my terrific brother and his terrific family, I have lots of other family in Israel. I have a "sister", Nira Rabinovitch, who just moved into Beit Rachel in Yemenite Village. Talk about guts! Nira and her darling children and husband live around the corner from someone termed the "Snake of Silwan", responsible for the instigation of many terrorist attacks committed against our families in Yemenite Village. When I asked Nira how she can live in such close proximity to such a hate filled person, her answer was simple: "we have bitachon". Bitachon as in faith in G-d and bitachon as in a police presence round the clock in the village. Need I say more.

Please, please act now and donate to help us with one of the projects listed below. The next time you go to Jerusalem, you will see what a difference Ateret Cohanim is making in the heart of Jerusalem. We will mourn on Tisha B'Av, but we can also smile and be joyful witnessing the renewal of Jewish life in OUR Jerusalem.

Wishing all of you a meaningful 9 days, an easy fast and a meaningful Tisha B'Av. We pray for the end of bloodshed and only for besurot tovot - good news - for the Jewish people and for all good people throughout the world.

With love of Israel,  
Shani Hikind  
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[www.jerusalemchai.org](http://www.jerusalemchai.org)

**Donate Now**

**SECURITY CAMERAS  
NEEDED ASAP**

The Police of the Old City approached Ateret Cohanim requesting 12 cameras on very strategic rooftops in order for the Police to have "eyes" over the rooftops.

Many attacks by local Arabs have been from these rooftops and not the alleyways. In the Old City having these cameras is a life saver.

- 9 static cameras required at \$3000 each (5 cameras already sponsored as of mid July 2016)

[CLICK HERE](#)

**Visit our New Buildings- Beit HaNof in the Old City**



**Annette and Jacob Szafranski**

- 3 moveable-rotating cameras required at \$8500 each

**SUMMER DAY CAMPS**

Help subsidize all our children and youth activities .Kids need a "break" from the pressures, tension and difficult security situation of the Old City and neighborhoods outside the Old City. Help us give them an enjoyable summer.

- Young children (3-12 yrs) - \$8700
- Girls: 13-16 years - \$7600
- Boys: 13-16 years - \$8100

**PINAT CHAM**

First ever PINAT CHAM in the Old City for all security personnel and Policemen. Help us establish a critically needed this most needed rest and refreshment spot at the entrance to Beit Wittenberg.. *They protect us. Let's show them our appreciation. (projected cost \$42,000)*

- Serving 100 security personnel
- 8 hour schedule
- Free food, coffee and a restroom which will accomodate 100 security personnel working an 8 hour shift.
- Outside of Beit Wittenberg on the spot where Rabbi Nechemia Lavi HY"D was murdered last September.

**SCENIC OVERLOOK**

The most spectacular scenic view of Jerusalem (from the South) overlooking the Temple Mount, the City of David, the Kings Garden and the Mount of Olives, is from Beit Rachel in the old Yemenite Village.

Help us establish the scenic outlook with all-weather model of historical Jerusalem.. Naming rights available. (projected cost \$35,000)

***As always, your generous support is greatly appreciated***

**FROM ANY ANGLE,  
NORTH, SOUTH, EAST OR WEST  
JERUSALEM LOOKS BEAUTIFUL**

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VIEW FROM BEIT HANOF

**THIS SUMMER TOUR WITH US  
AND SEE OUR JERUSALEM!**

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VIEW FROM BET HATZALAM

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DLJERUSALEM@GMAIL.COM | WWW.JERUSALEMCHAI.ORG/TOURS



**You** are cordially invited to participate in an evening in support of the tremendous families living in the heart of Jerusalem on Wednesday, August 10th at the Young Israel of Great Neck at 8:15 PM.

Tears are simply not enough on Tisha B'Av & the antidote to the pain & suffering the Jewish people have experienced for thousands of years are *the brave families keeping Jerusalem united with Jewish life.*

Join us for a moving presentation in support of Ateret Cohanim's children and their security. Donations will benefit summer day camps that get kids out of the Old City as well as purchase critically needed security cameras. Please [click here](#) for more information.

**We Thank This Week's Corporate Sponsors**

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<b>The JewishBuzz</b>	<b>718 Insurance</b>
	
<a href="#">click here for Torah Anytime</a>	<a href="#">click here for Chazaq Website</a>



5776 - תשע"ו - May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem" (עיר), and her residents. ('ויושביה') May G-d's City - Yerushalayim, be rebuilt and restored to its previous glory for the Jewish People. Next year in a united Jerusalem with a flourishing Jewish life centred around religious educational institutes.

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